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Latest Art, Culture, Food, Tourism news, views & announcements

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CULTURAL eMAGAZINE

INKOCHI

FIRST OF ITS KIND FROM KERALA

20

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Trekking thru their New Silk Road

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CULTURAL eMAGAZINE
INK OCHI
FIRST OF ITS KIND FROM KERALA

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Editor's Note

NEW SILK ROAD

"Upcycling is a way of processing an item to make it better than the original. In the example of clothing, this is often taking something that doesn't fit or is stained/torn and refashioning a wearable product from it."

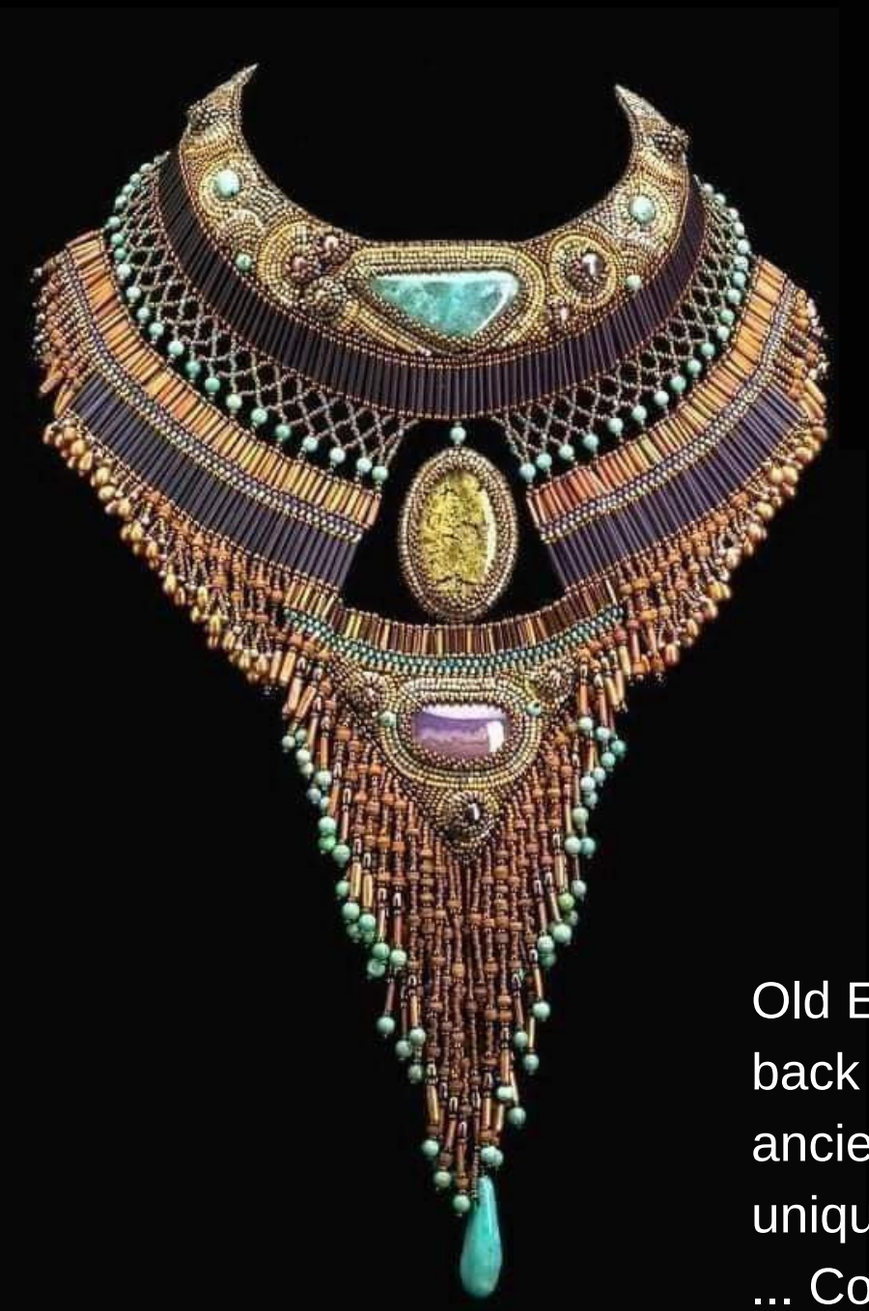
"Upcycling is the process of converting waste materials or useless products into new products of a higher environmental value... This trend is a product of the recession, but is further is buoyed by the current movement towards sustainable thinking."

Here in this issue, you can find how the silk waste from India is made into artworks in Israel - New Silk Road.

Happy Reading...!!
Varghese T. Thomas

amazing to know

Ankh



Old Egyptian jewelry pieces dating back to 4000 years ago. Watch how ancient Egyptians turned metal into unique pieces.

... Contribution: Ankh Civilisation

amazing to know

Horreos

"HORREO" are typical granary for storing cereals. Most of them are in the Galicia and slightly less in Spain. Similar granaries exist in France, British Isles, Scandinavia. They are built of stone or wood, but they must be raised from the ground, on pillars. In this way, stored cereals are protected from rodents. Most often are rectangular and square in shape. Ventilation is allowed by the slits in its walls. Written documents show that they date back to the 13th century. The oldest existing one is from the 15th century.

... Contribution: Century Archaeology, UK.

amazing to know

Murud Janijira

Murud Janijira Fort, Mumbai.

Contribution: Maha Tourism Department

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Ernakulam, Near Kochi, Kerala

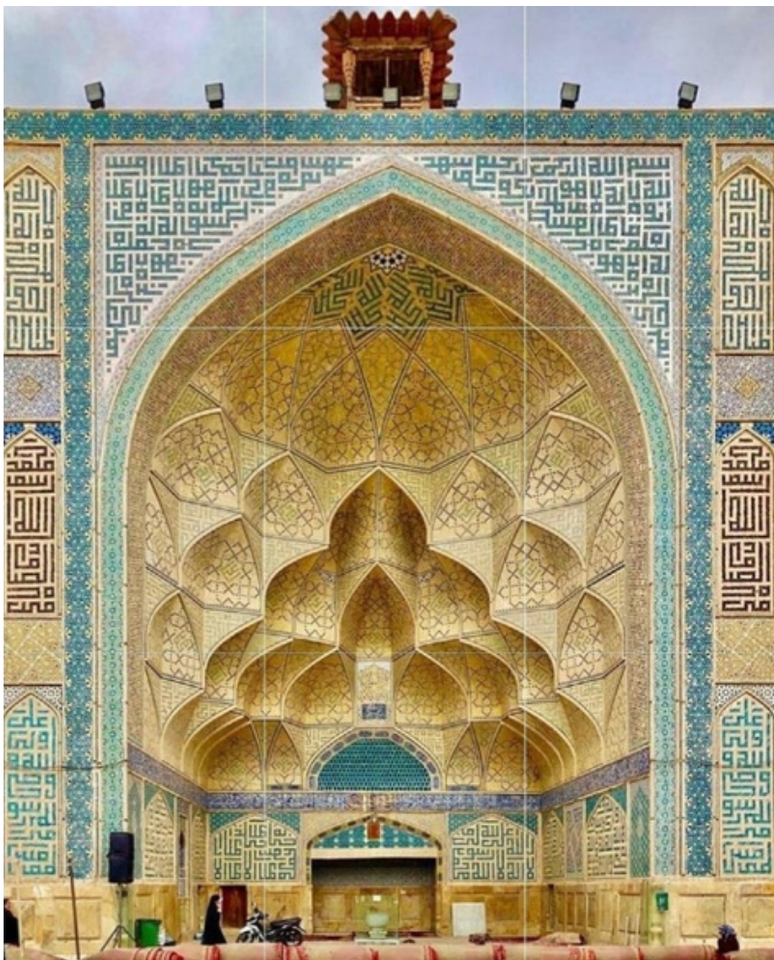
jami masjid

Text & Photos
RANA SAFVI

Traditionally, architecture was seen as an 'image of the cosmos or of man taken in this cosmic dimension'. If man's body was the basis of the Nagara style of temple architecture, mosques were building within which man could feel the Divine Presence 'and be nourished by the effusion of the grace emanating from the Spirit.

Mosque architecture - and the architecture of the house and the palace, which in Islam is inspired by sacred architecture (the house being in the sense the extension of the mosque) is therefore also a replica of the cosmos and the locus of the encounter of man and the Divine Word or Logos.' [The Sense of Unity, Nader Ardalan & Laleh Bakhtiar]

Thus the basis for the understanding of traditional Islamic architecture, which extends the principles of sacred architecture from the mosque to practically every architectural unit and finally to town - and city planning itself, is the relation existing between the cosmos, man in the traditional sense of anthropos, and architecture.



jami masjid

Text & Photos
RANA SAFVI

One such glorious example is the muqarna or squinch, with its philosophical and theological significance. 'Indeed, Muslim philosophical concepts are embodied in their architectural forms. The relations between these forms are determined by what we may refer to as a spiritual mathematics. Islamic spirituality is linked with the variety of qualitative mathematics developed by Pythagoras (580?-500? b.c.).

For Pythagoras, numbers were the ultimate elements of the universe. In other words, numbers were divine: for a Pythagorean, an understanding of relations between numbers can only result in an understanding of the nature of the universe.

Muqarnas is significant in Islamic architecture because its elaborate form is a symbolic representation of universal creation by God. Muqarnas architecture is featured in domes, half- dome entrances, iwans and apses.' [Muhsin Dadarkar & Srishti Dokras]

And one can't find a finer example than the muqarnas in the Jami Masjid of Isfahan, a World Heritage UNESCO monument.

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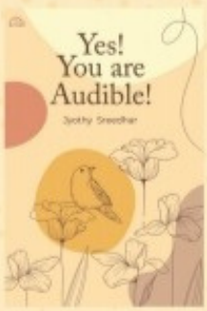

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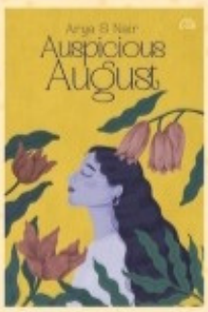

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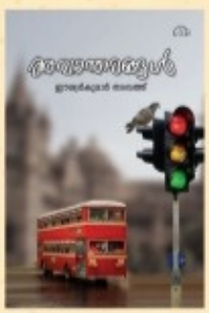
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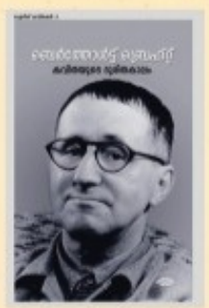
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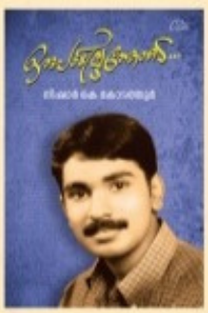
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INKochi
Exclusive

ALICEN JACOB
walks through the
New Silk Road along with
SHOSHI BEN HAMO

Interview & Text:
Alicen Jacob

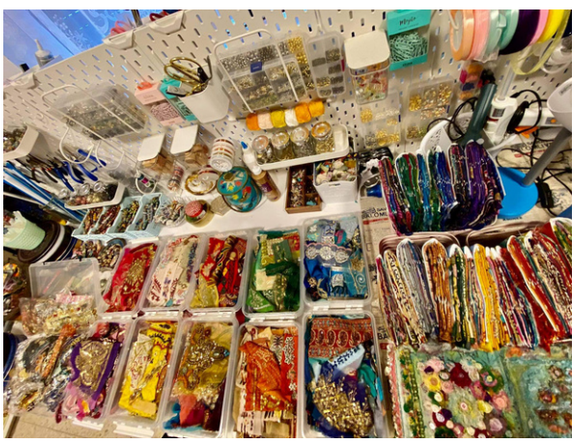
Shoshi Ben Hamo is a textile artist from Israel who is behind the distinctly creative 'The Silk Road' textile art book. Reminding one the Rajasthani quilt patterns, her work ingeniously uses silk fabrics, lace, beads, buttons and colours. **"There is no end to the colours, shapes and boundless beauty..."** she says.

Textile Art Book

New Silk Road

Shoshi's parents who were born in Morrocco migrated to Israel in 1952, where Shoshi was born in 1960. The Moroccan culture, however, had a deep influence on her. Whether it is the colour, smell, fabrics or even the rhythm of music, Morroco is a strong part of who she is. "I have been creating for over 40 years," remarks this artist "and have always loved exploring the properties of fabric and fiber." Shoshi goes to flea markets and thrift stores like those in Haifa, sees, feels, picks and collects what she is looking for. She has connections with textile collectors from around the world and calls the materials she works with, her own Silk Road.

New Silk Road



What is most fascinating about Shoshi's work is how she solely works with scraps of cloth which would otherwise be considered worthless and unusable and might end up in a landfill. Her studio, which would make anyone feel like a kid in a candy store, contains jars of buttons and beads of myriad shapes, colours and sizes. In addition to this there is an eye boggling collection of laces, sequins, threads and pieces of fabric, all sorted meticulously and arranged methodically.

Shoshi has a special connection and great love for textiles from India. She buys yarns, dyes scraps of silk and sari, and painstakingly transforms them to into beautiful pieces of art. **She even uses the stamped envelopes, in which she receives her fabrics to inscribe history. In her latest work "The Silk Road" textile art book she incorporates all the materials she procured from India in unimaginable ways**.

The Silk Road primarily refers to the
land routes connecting
East Asia and Southeast Asia
with South Asia, Persia,
the Arabian Peninsula,
East Africa and Southern Europe.

The image of the girl surrounded by transparent buttons is symbolic of how often the women on the Silk Road remain invisible and in a way this act of remaining invisible is considered to be the essence of being a woman.

The image of the movement of the camels takes us to the start of the story, long long ago in the thirteenth century…

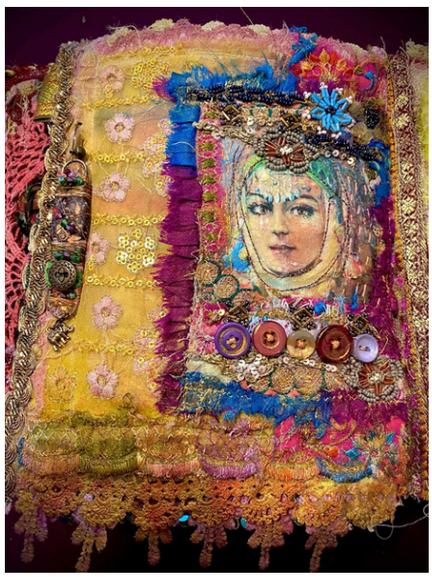
She makes fabric beads, which are in great demand all over the world.

New Silk Road

She was able to develop a technique to print on canvas using a regular printer.

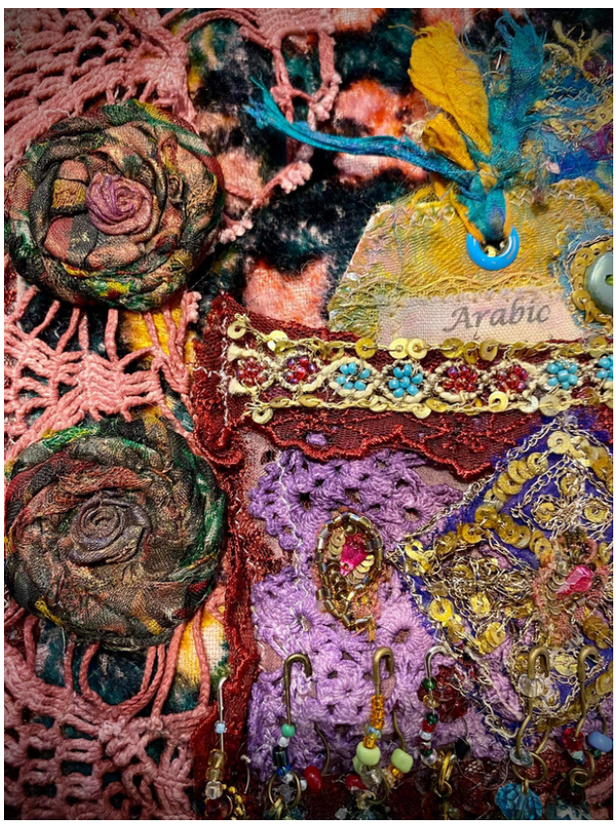
Shoshi's textile art book 'The Silk Road' is a remarkable piece of work. Each page of this work is a marvel. It blends together various textures which includes a variety of fabrics, beads, buttons, embroidery etc. The margins of each page are fashioned out of delicate crochet laces of various patterns. In some pages columns of handmade danglers, made of beautiful beads and metal elephants, reminding one of tassels, have been fitted in. To entwine the narrative about the Silk Road she uses small pieces of printed canvas – with script or images- which are inserted like a book mark into intricately decorated little pockets within the pages. A motely of floral designs made of fabric and stitched into the page is yet another intriguing aspect of her work.

New Silk Road



“I created my own Silk Road!” she says. If in the past they had used camels, ships and other means of transport, today internet is Shoshi’s means of transport. In the process of crafting this masterpiece she had researched on the subject of Silk Road, the journeys of Marco Polo and the history of how silk and fabric came to Europe along with the spices. **Another interesting fact about this textile book is how she has weaved in narratives of the women on the Silk Road. She highlights these otherwise evaded voices in the annals of history and speaks of how these beautiful, smart and hardworking women too have something to say**.

New Silk Road



When enquired about her creative process, Shoshi says that she doesn't plan or think and just creates from the soul. Art is her opinion is her freedom. Ever since she started creating, the basis for her work has been fabric. Sometimes she uses paper too and the most enthralling aspect is that she makes the paper herself from plants. She cooks the plants and uses their fiber to make paper. Her works combine traditional crafts and innovative techniques that stretch the boundaries of the material. The use of old techniques and natural materials along with advanced techniques produce surprising products in beauty. "I never know what the end result will be and that's part of the fun of art!" she adds.

New Silk Road

Apart from being a textile artist, Shoshi has also donned the hat of a director/producer of documentaries. Although in cinema she created in the spirit, Shoshi really missed touching the material and therefore slowly went back to creating textile art. She does not create with an aim of exhibiting her work, or selling it. But despite of this she does because people ask her to. A year back she had held a solo exhibition which was received with great enthusiasm. The visitors even requested Shoshi to hold another one soon.

New Silk Road

Now residing in Kibbutz Lohamei Haghetaot, a unique form of cooperative settlement, which is located in Northern Israel on the Lebanon border, close to the Mediterranean Sea and the city of Acre, this inimitable artist comments, “The truth is that I love my quiet, without all the noise around. But at the same time I’m happy to see that people enjoy my work!”

Shashi Ben Hamo has happily accepted the invitation to collaborate with INKochi, to conduct her exhibition in India (Kochi, Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai and New Delhi) as soon as the Corona crisis subsides and travel becomes easier.

The writer - **Alicen Jacob** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Aquinas College, Edakochi, Kochi, Kerala.

She is an independent writer, cultural commentator, poet and fiction writer on her blog Loner by the Lamppost. In between her roles as an educator, researcher and mother, she loves to dabble her hands in paint and finds cycling relaxing.
Reach at: rocha0610@gmail.com

Poem

Pooja Sinha

An avid reader and an active writer for several years. A content creator through blogs, posts, poems, polls and also have one of the most challenging jobs, by far, of being a home maker.

Graduated in Psychology honours, Masters in International Business Management.

Influenced by both intrinsic things - reflections in daily life; and extrinsic things - books read, art and culture. These topics have inspired her to read, more write more, understand more.

Her writing style is purely dependant on mood, it oscillates between a poetic rhythm adopted and plain prose formats.

“CELEBRATE EQUALITY”

Celebrate your hero’s and sheroes,
Both are comparable to a Pharoah,
Ancient though the term may seem,
For most women its just a dream.

Celebrate your hero’s and sheroes,
Today’s faintheart can become a warrior tomorrow,
She has the strength and determination,
Give her time and see her transformation.

Celebrate your hero’s and sheroes,
She has a meteoric rise even from zero,
She is willing to go that extra mile,
She faces even the most hostile.

Celebrate your hero’s and sheroes,
Where there is no door, she opens a window,
A wise and trustworthy companion to the core,
Tales of her bravery are part of folklore.

Celebrate your hero’s and sheroes,
She masters every subject thoroughly,
Breaks glass ceilings repeatedly,
All she wants is to be treated equally.

© POOJA SINHA
22ND AUGUST 2021
Exclusively for INKochi eMagazine

Booksummary

By: Sahil Pradhan

Flinching. Destructive. All consuming.
Indu Menon's stories are dangerous. Women in these stories have absolute autonomy, they take men by their throats and drain the lifeblood of patriarchy out of them. The gamut in watching that gore in watching the actions these women take to own up their sexuality, gender, feminism and sheer power. The horrors of the many trigger warnings (there are 23 warnings if I list them, so be cautious) is almost tantalizing when you see why the medium is used in here. It's almost as if the women characters Indu Menon has wrote about will swallow you whole and spit you out.

Menon's writing though is strikingly different from the stories themselves, the settings and the narration is an ode to the power of nature. As Menon travels through the many atmospheres and landscapes of Kerala and beyond, you see the rawness of the darkest of human psyche and by the side, the most beautiful metaphorical bounties of nature.

Booksummary

Continued...

It takes courage and power to write such stories, maybe even a sorority of survivors and a whole pack of self inflicted caution. Possibly because Menon writes in Malayalam, thus vernacular literature where there is the minimum amount of editorial intervention, this vast and dynamic dark ballet of a novel could see the light of the people's eyes.

Indu Menon

It is only because vernacular literature focuses so much on real life stories and more on stories and not language that it resonates so much. Translations have that wonder, they don't delve into deep language rather they come and tell you a simple story but with such ferocity that you will curb and die out of the after effects. Books like these stay etched inside your memory for longer than ever, they make their own space inside your mind.

"The Lesbian Cow and Other Stories" will live with you forever, it may haunt you or drop you off a cliff with its tantalizing and ferocious experimentations but whatever the aftermaths of reading this maybe, this will be a book you will cherish reading. This novel is an all-consuming, in parts emotional, often painful read. It is heartbreaking and hopeful; it is brilliant, it is beautiful, it is brutal and bewitching.

Eranadu Mutton Fry

Eranadu (Kannur), Kerala

Recipe by:
Chef Arjun Rajgopal

The thumb rule to achieve a robust mutton fry is to never buy boneless mutton. The bones lend the dish a subtle taste and the marrow has many nutritional properties. The dish tastes best the next day.

What you need:

- 1/2 kg mutton
- 1/2 tsp garam masala
- A bit of grated nutmeg
- 1 spring curry leaves
- A pinch of black pepper
- Coriander leaves for garnish
- Salt to taste

To marinate:

- 1 tsp ginger-garlic paste
- 1 tbsp vinegar/fresh lemon extract
- 2 tbsp pearl onions, minced fine
- 1 tsp coriander powder
- 1 tsp red chilli powder
- 3/4 tsp garam masala powder
- 1 tbsp fennel seeds, lightly dry roasted and coarsely pounded
- 1/2 tsp turmeric powder
- 1 tbsp pepper powder
- 1 sprig curry leaves
- Salt to taste

Eranadu Mutton Fry

Continued...

To season:

- 1/2 tsp mustard seeds
- 3 tbsp thin coconut slices
- 1/4 cup ginger and garlic together, julienned
- 10-12 pearl onions, sliced lengthwise
- 2-3 green chillies, slit lengthwise
- 2 sprigs curry leaves

How to make it:

- Wash meat well in running water. Drain it.
- Marinate with the ingredients listed. Let it stand for at least an hour.
- Boil meat on a low flame for about an hour in a thick-bottomed vessel

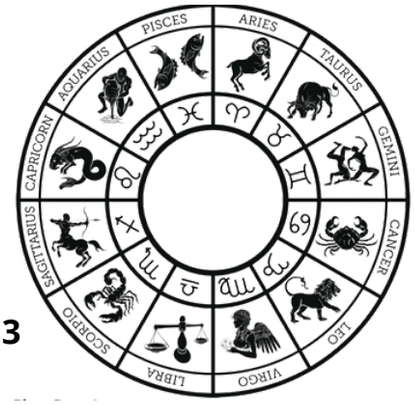
How to make it... continued

- Heat coconut oil in a kadai for the seasoning. Splutter mustard seeds, and add the coconut bits. Tip in the julienned ginger and garlic, pearl onions, green chillies and curry leaves. Saute until the coconut and ginger-garlic are toasted and the onions acquire a golden hue. They will get caramelised when the meat is fried later.
- Add the seasoning to the meat and let it cook.
- Add more salt and black pepper if required.
- Turn the meat pieces once every minute to stop the masala from sticking to the bottom. Roast until pieces are dry and dark-brown in colour. (If you prefer it not too dry, take it off the fire when the pieces are well-coated with masala and are still moist and succulent.
- Just as the meat is getting cooked, add a bit of grated nutmeg to it and a sprig of curry leaves.
- Garnish with coriander leaves, while serving.

WEEKLY Tarot Reading

By: Chaitali Mukherjee

https://youtube.com/c/TarotPriestess1313



Your Next 7 Days

Aug 27-Sep 02 2021

ARIES

You will quickly remove yourself from a contentious situation. Logic will rule over your emotions, you are letting go of difficult or complex issues. A victory and new opportunity is on the cards. Challenges would be dealt by you like a fighter.

LIBRA

You want to move on from stagnating situations. You will travel in this period. You want to get rid of responsibilities and unrewarding work situations. Pleasant changes are underway.

TAURUS

You would be very confident in this period. To deal with love or livelihood issues you are going to practice a positive approach. All negativity will be dropped by you. You will be triumphant and would be trying new things.

SCORPIO

Focus would be on new circumstances and new goals. Ultimate happiness on the cards after a long trial. Luck is shining on you, rich rewards and celebrations. Any bad times are behind you.

GEMINI

You saved yourself from a problematic situation. You chose safety in relationship, home and safety in a steady job. You are on the path of natural growth. Go with the flow don't resist it...happiness would be found in stability.

SAGITTARIUS

A situation is not fulfilling you. You will figure out a way to get past the unpleasant development by pausing a bit on your path. These setbacks are short term. Keep working hard, be focussed on your end goal.

CANCER

A change in your relationship or work situation. You are planning to expand your horizons. In this period you will get out of pain or heart breaks. A new surprise offer of stability in job or relationship will take you out of exhaustion or disadvantage.

CAPRICORN

A travel, new change of environment, job, money or new business. You will be protective of your assets or relationships at this time. A celebration or reunion with loved ones is on the card. Some of you will learn a new thing or re train for something.

LEO

Family, wealth or inheritance is causing you worry. Relationships and money is taking centre stage in your life. A new offer of stability will be extended to you, a new beginning is on the cards as the old life cycle is getting over.

AQUARIUS

Wish fulfilment in your life. Luck will favour you in this period. You will give up or move on from one aspect of your life to concentrate on your professional or love dreams. A subtle change towards self focus.

VIRGO

You are enjoying vacations. A soul mate can enter your life at this moment. You are planning ,deciding about your future at this time. A fresh start is coming which would be calmer and away from tumults.

PISCES

You will be in your past memories or trying to reach harmony in love, through them. A marriage or long term commitment is on the cards. All troubles or problems will be solved by being moderate. A time for healing.

To know more about your reading, please watch her YouTube channel - Link in the Homepage

Slurp!

Baras shot at
Pench National Park

March 2020

OneWeek
OneShot

By:
Aarzoo Khurana

Portraying KERALA

Thank you for READING...

CULTURAL eMAGAZINE

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